

**Harvard Devens Jurisdiction Committee  
Meeting Held at Harvard Town Hall, Harvard, MA  
Minutes of the May 2, 2019 Meeting  
Paul Green, Clerk**

## **Attendance**

**Members Present:** George Glazier, Paul Green, Heather Knowles, Erin McBee, Kara Minar, Tim Myllykangas, Victor Normand, SusanMary Redinger, Lucy Wallace.

**Members Absent:** None.

**Guests:** Chris Ryan (Town of Harvard), Ed Starzec (MassDevelopment Real Estate), Matt Flokos (Harvard Press), Jessica Strunkin (SVP of Devens for MassDevelopment).

## **Approval of Minutes**

The meeting was called to order by Victor Normand at 9:10 am.

The committee reviewed the minutes. No changes were requested. Lucy moved to accept the minutes and Kara seconded the motion. The committee unanimously approved the minutes.

## **Department Heads and Committee Chair Feedback Updates**

Paul reviewed the progress on our interviews. We are at 38% complete. Tim sent in a report yesterday, which gets us to 40%. Paul offered a copy of the compiled reports to any member who requests it. The committee discussed whether some of the more obscure assignments could be dropped; Victor asked people to raise any such requests in our meeting. We agreed to drop the MART Advisory Board, the Fence Viewers, the Warner Free Lecture and Housing at Hildreth House. SusanMary volunteered to write up information about Montachusett Regional Tech High School; the committee agreed that an interview would not be necessary. Erin volunteered to speak with the Veteran's Agent. Lucy offered to take the Sewer and Water Commission.

## **Review of Master Plan Elements**

Victor reviewed the aspects of the recently-revised Harvard Master Plan that pertained to Devens. He noted that all master plans contain a set of elements and that these elements pertain to Devens as well. Victor asked Kara, who co-chaired the Master Plan Committee with Lucy, to take our committee through the set of elements. Kara explained that the purpose of a Master Plan (MP) is to guide long-term capital investment and development in a community. Chapter 81D of Massachusetts General Laws guides the effort, and MPs are generally updated every 10 years. A MP document sets out a vision, goals, and discusses 11 elements: land use, natural resources, open space, population, housing, the economy, cultural resources, community services, facilities, circulation and traffic. The MP discusses each area in detail and sets priorities for each element, and identifies who is responsible for addressing each element. Our consultant analyzed the impact of Devens on each of these elements, and provided recommendations. The consultant identified areas that the town had not previously considered. Kara felt that the report was quite helpful.

Victor added that a major purpose of the Master Plan effort was to provide the town, and town meeting, with factual information so that it could then make a subjective decision on the future direction of the town, and on the character of the town. As an example, he noted that the consultants had identified towns that whose areas were separated by rivers or other natural boundaries and by examining these examples, we could learn about "connectivity issues" that may arise.

Lucy noted that the MP also points out beneficial opportunities for the town. Two specific examples are increasing the diversity of housing, and gaining additional playing fields. Devens has a public water supply versus private wells in (most of) Harvard.

Kara spoke to the challenge of integrating the existing population at Devens and noted that fact that Devens and Harvard students share the same schools has helped this effort.

Erin and Heather noted that the playing fields have been used by Harvard teams, on a fee basis.

Lucy noted that the consultants had conducted an economic analysis to help guide us. Devens is just one aspect of the long-term capital and budgetary issues that Harvard will face. Kara appreciated the fact that the economic analysis was done by outside experts, giving it additional credibility. Lucy liked the fact that because the MP consultants had not previously worked with Devens or Harvard, they were able to bring a fresh set of eyes to the process.

Victor noted that, unlike other base closures, the redevelopment process at Devens was not undertaken by the local municipality, but was done by MassDevelopment, suspending local jurisdiction. This presents a unique set of challenges. Victor said that he feels that voters will be looking at what they gaining and what are they giving up as they make their decision. There is an extraordinary tax base at Devens but it comes with responsibilities. The financial aspects of the transition are probably unique to Devens; he doesn't believe that we can find another similar financial situation.

The committee discussed the fact that the economic situation at Devens is not static; businesses come and go. Even once the parties agree on an outcome, crafting a transition plan will be a major task. Legislation will be needed. Victor pointed out that the consultant said that some aspects of the transition can be handled by adding capacity rather than acquiring new knowledge.

Victor noted that, just as one piece of legislation created the Devens Regional Enterprise Zone, it is likely that one piece of legislation will be written to unwind it. He said that this will provide us with an opportunity to include changes in that legislation that would otherwise be difficult if they were introduced separately. He gave an example of creating a municipal utility for Devens; it is a quasi-municipal utility today. Other members provided examples of regionalization of services or fire district boundaries.

Paul noted that, after agreement is reached among the parties on the transition, the planning for the transition will be a major effort. The legislature operates on a two-year cycle. He recommended that we draw up a timetable for the major activities that will require approval by the legislature, so that we fit into their normal schedule. He recommended that the financial transition not be a cliff, as he sees that as a high-risk approach. He suggested that we allocate several years for the transition itself.

Lucy suggested that we invited Jamie and Jen to our meetings to help us understand the effort that they will need to undertake on our behalf.

Kara raised the issue of communicating the planning and transition process to the residents and businesses. We need to bring the various constituencies along with us on this path.

Victor suggested that at our next meeting, we revisit the charge from the Harvard Select Board, to ensure we are in line with it. He asked the members to review the Master Plan before the next meeting.

## **Framework Committee Status**

Victor said that he and Lucy have communicated with the other towns, MassDevelopment, and the DEC on the formation of a steering committee. They are suggesting that each of the 5 parties send 3 members to a meeting in June. The towns would send the Chair of the Board of Selectmen (or a designee), the Town Administrator (or a designee), and the Chair of a Citizens Committee. MassDevelopment and the DEC would each send 3 members. The initial meeting will be an organizational meeting.

We discussed whether and how the Devens residents would be represented at this framework meeting. Heather said that, ideally, the Devens residents would have their own little committee to represent them.

Lucy noted that Harvard is not of one uniform mind on Devens and suggested that each of the 5 parties should have a plan for reaching out and including the opinions of multiple aspects of their community.

Jessica noted that given the complexity and level of investment by MassDevelopment at Devens, they planned to send 3 representatives to the framework committee meetings.

Victor reminded us that this committee will deal with structure, not with disposition recommendations. Part of the structure will be determining how to include the views of residents and businesses.

Ed noted that the meeting of the framework committee will be a public meeting, and so anyone can sit in on it.

Lucy said that she has spoken with the chairs of the Ayer and Shirley Select Boards. Ayer is actively putting together a committee similar to the HDJC. Shirley is not quite so far long. Victor reached out to both town administrators.

## **Other**

Chris Ryan has reached out to the planners for the other towns and the DEC, to coordinate the Devens planning effort among the parties.

## **Pending Task Assignments**

Members of the committee should continue to send write-ups of their meetings with department heads and committee chairs to Paul.

Lucy and Victor will continue to communicate with the other towns.

## **Adjournment**

Victor adjourned the meeting at 9:59 am.

## **Attachments**

1. HDJC Committee and Officials Interview Status

## **Notes**

The Devens Enterprise Commission maintains a copy of Chapter 498 and the various amendments that modify it.

The URL for the page is: <http://www.devensec.com/ch498/dec498toc.html>.

## HDJC Interview Status as of April 30, 2019

SusanMary Redinger:	7 of 8 complete.
Erin McBee	0 of 9 complete.
Lucy Wallace	7 of 11 complete.
Kara Minar	1 of 8 complete.
George Glazier	0 of 4 complete.
Heather Knowles	2 of 5 complete.
Victor Normand	0 of 4 complete.
Paul Green	5 of 6 complete.
Tim Myllykangas	0 of 3 complete.
Overall	22 of 58 complete (38%)

<u>Elected Town Offices</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Email Address</u>	<u>HDJC Liaison</u>	<u>Status</u>
Library Trustees	Davida Bagatelle	davidabag1@gmail.com	SusanMary	Complete
Moderator	Bill Barton	bill.barton@verscend.com	Erin	
School Committee	SusanMary Redinger	smredinger@charter.net	SusanMary	Complete
Select Board	Lucy Wallace	lbwallace34@aol.com	Lucy	Complete
Warner Free Lecture	Lisa Foley	lisalynnfoley@yahoo.com	Erin	
<u>Appointed Town Boards &amp; Departments</u>				
Access to Services Liaison	none		Not Applicable	
Agricultural Advisory Committee	Kerri Green	kerri@westwardorchards.com	Kara	
Ambulance Service	Jason Cotting	jcotting@harvarddems.org	George	
Animal Control Officer	Paul Willard	dogmanaka@gmail.com	Heather	
Bare Hill Pond Watershed Committee	Bruce Leicher	bruceleicher@aol.com	Heather	Complete
Board of Assessors	?		Victor	
Board of Health	Libby Levison	libby-boh@email.toast.net	Kara	
Broadband Committee	Noyan Kinayman	nkinayman@gmail.com	Paul	Complete
Burial Officer	Chief Denmark	edenmark@harvard.ma.us	Kara	
Cable Access Committee	Bill Johnson	bill.johnson@harvardmass.net	SusanMary	Complete
Capital Planning & Investment Committee	John Seeley & SusanMary Redinger	smredinger@charter.net	SusanMary	Complete
Cemetery Commission	Bruce Dolimount	brdolim@charter.net	George	
Community Preservation Committee	Didi Chadran	dunia.deeds@gmail.com	Heather	Complete
Conservation Commission	Don Ritchie	dsritchie@aol.com	Heather	
Constable	Greg Newman		George	
Council on Aging	Beth Williams	bethwilliams76@gmail.com	Lucy	Complete
Cultural Council	Lucy Clerkin & Anne Butterfield	lclerkin@gmail.com	Kara	
Devens Enterprise Commission Reps	Jim DeZutter & Duncan Chapman	jdezutter@earthlink.net	Lucy	Complete
Elderly & Disabled Taxation Aid Committee	Amy Haley, Treasurer	ahaley@harvard.ma.us	Lucy	Complete
Elm Commission	Bill Calderwood		George	
Emergency Program Director	Chief Sicard	rsicard@harvard.ma.us	Erin	
Energy Advisory Committee	Brian Smith	briansmithnetwork@gmail.com	SusanMary	Complete
Fence Viewers	Ron Ricci, Leo Blair	ronald.v.ricci@gmail.com	Not Applicable	
Finance Committee	Don Ludwig		Lucy	
Fire Department	Chief Sicard	rsicard@harvard.ma.us	Erin	
4th of July Committee	Anne Hentz	anne@annehentzinteriors.com	Paul	Complete
Harbormaster	Bob O'Shea	roscos@icloud.com	Paul	Complete
Hazardous Waste Coordinator	Chief Sicard	rsicard@harvard.ma.us	Erin	
Historical Commission	Pam Marston	pam.marston@gmail.com	Heather	
Housing @ Hildreth House	Rick Maiore	r.fmaiore@charter.net	Victor	
Inspectional Services	Gabe Vellante		Tim	
Land Stewardship Committee			Erin	
Library Department	Mary Wilson	mwilson@harvard.ma.us	SusanMary	Complete
MART Advisory Board	Tim Bragan	tbragan@harvard.ma.us	Lucy	
MBTA Advisory Board	none		Kara	
Minuteman Home Corp Rep	Pam Frederick	pwfrederick@gmail.com	Victor	
Montachusett Joint Transp. Committee	none		Erin	
MRPC	PB & SB Reps, as needed		Erin	
Montachusett Voc. Tech HS	Amy Morton		SusanMary	
Municipal Affordable Housing Trust	Alice Von Loesecke	avonloesecke@gmail.com	Paul	In progress
Old Library Accessibility Committee	Lucy Wallace	lbwallace34@aol.com	Lucy	Complete
Park & Recreation Commission	Doug Thornton	douglasthornton@hotmail.com	SusanMary	Complete
Personnel Board	Victor Normand	vnormand@aol.com	Victor	
Planning Board	Erin McBee	mcbeepb@gmail.com	Kara / Chris Ryan	Complete
Police Department	Chief Denmark	edenmark@harvard.ma.us	Kara	
Public Works Department	Tim Kilhart	tkilhart@harvard.ma.us	Kara	
Select Board's Office	Tim Bragan	tbragan@harvard.ma.us	Lucy	
Sewer & Water Commission	Cindy Russo	cynthia.s.russo@gmail.com	Erin	
Tree Warden	J.C. Ferguson	harvardtreewarden@stillriver.org	Paul	Complete
Town Clerk / Registrar of Voters	Marlene Kenney	mkenney@harvard.ma.us	Lucy	Complete
Town Counsel	Mark Lanza	mjlanza@comcast.net	Tim	
Veteran's Agent	Mike Detillion		Lucy	

War Monument Restoration Committee	Jon Shoenberg	jen.jon@verizon.net	Paul	Complete
Zoning Appeals Board	Chris Tracey	tophertracey@charter.net	Lucy	Complete
495 Metrowest Partnership Rep	Duncan Chapman	duchapman@charter.net	Tim	

# Harvard-Devens Jurisdiction Committee

c/o Harvard Select Board  
13 Ayer Road  
Harvard, MA 01451

April 30, 2019

Jessica Strunkin, Senior Vice President  
MassDevelopment – Devens  
33 Andrew Parkway  
Devens, MA 01434

Peter Lowitt, Director  
Devens Enterprise commission  
33 Andrews Parkway  
Devens, MA 01434

Debra Flagg, Chair  
Shirley Board of Selectmen  
7 Keady Way  
Shirley, MA 01464

Janice Livingston, Chair  
Ayer Board of Selectmen  
1 Main Street  
Ayer, MA 01432

Subject: Devens Permanent Government Framework Committee

Greetings All,

We would like to find a mutually convenient time for us to meet regarding Devens. As you may recall, Lauren Liss, MassDevelopment CEO, recommended that the five parties charged with developing a plan on permanent government at Devens meet to establish the framework for accomplishing this task

We have received positive feedback for the membership configuration we proposed to the Towns and the DEC, as follows: Each of the three towns would be represented by the Chair, or the Chair's designee, of their respective Selectmen, their Town Administrator/Manager, or designee, and the Chair of a Citizens Committee. Additionally, MassDevelopment – Devens and the Devens Enterprise Commission would each have three members which could include Devens resident and Devens business participation.

Because the Towns will be holding their Town Meetings and finalizing their budgets in May, we would like to suggest that we meet in June. Please provide us with a list of participants from your Town or Agency, including contact information, so that we can set a date for this initial meeting using a meeting manager widget.

We are looking forward to charting the next course for Devens together.

Respectfully,

Lucy Wallace, Chair, Harvard Select Board

Victor Normand, Chair, Harvard Devens Jurisdiction Committee